

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A backlight system comprising at least two juxtaposed cold cathode lamps wherein the lamps comprise cathodes at each end and 5 wherein the lamps are positioned in a manner that the cathodes are not touching.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the cathodes are longitudinally offset.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the lamps are not touching.
- 10 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the lamps are touching.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein one of lamps is shorter than the other lamp(s).
6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a light guide.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein there are at least two juxtaposed 15 cold cathode lamps on at least one set of opposing lateral sides of the light guide and wherein one lamp of the pair is longitudinally offset from the other so that the cathodes of the lamps are not touching.
8. The system of claim 6 wherein there are at least two juxtaposed cold cathode lamps forming a pair on each lateral side of the light guide.
- 20 9. The system of claim 6 wherein there are at least three juxtaposed cold cathode lamps having a center lamp and two end lamps on at least one set of opposing lateral sides of the light guide and wherein the center lamp is longitudinally offset from the end lamps so that the cathodes of the lamps are not touching.
- 25 10. The system of claim 6 wherein there are at least three juxtaposed cold cathode lamps having a center lamp and two end lamps on each lateral side of the light guide and wherein the center lamp is longitudinally offset from the end lamps so that the cathodes of the lamps are not touching.
- 30 11. A device comprising the system of claim 1.